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## **Mission, Strategic Intent, Accomplishments, and Major Challenges**

### **Mission**

We are the guardians of our Nation's borders -- America's frontline. We serve and protect the American Public with integrity, innovation, and pride. We enforce the laws of the United States, safeguard the revenue, and foster lawful international trade and travel.

### **Strategic Intent**

To protect the public against violations which threaten the national economy and health and safety through targeted enforcement and informed compliance and to be the national resource for information on goods and people crossing our borders.

### **Significant Accomplishments for FY 1999**

Customs seized or assisted in the domestic seizure of a record quantity of narcotics in FY 1999, nearly 1.4 million pounds (includes over 8,000 pounds of other controlled substances) and Customs seized, or assisted in the domestic seizure of, \$329.7 million in monetary instruments. This was due largely to enhanced Southwest Border and maritime interdiction, improved targeting, expansion of specialized teams dedicated to asset forfeiture, and successful undercover operations, combined with stringent reporting requirements for certain money remitters in targeted geographic locations.

As a result of Customs investigations, individuals were indicted for the attempted exportation of military technology to the People's Republic of China, aircraft and missile parts to Iran, and night-vision systems to Iraq. A trade fraud investigation led to a seizure of 43 containers of textiles and wearing apparel, valued at \$13 million, that was smuggled from China.

Customs made 204 arrests related to child pornography, and trained more than 1,000 foreign prosecutors, legislators, and law enforcement officers on how to conduct Internet child pornography investigations.

In October 1998, Customs implemented the Reconciliation Prototype. During FY 1999, over 1 million entries were flagged for reconciliation and, as of September 1999, about 60 reconciliation entries had been received, closing out over 5,000 flagged entry summaries pertaining to approximately \$209 million in imports.

Both the Overall and the Primary Focus Industry (PFI) letter-of-the-law compliance rates for FY 1999 have increased by one percent from FY 1998. In addition, both the Overall and the PFI major transactional compliance rates for FY 1999 have increased by one percent from FY 1998. Based on major transactional discrepancies (i.e., significant discrepancies factored in) we have reached our goal of achieving 90 percent overall compliance.

### **Major Challenges for FY 2000**

As Customs enters the twenty-first century, the following significant challenges face the organization and its workforce:

- Focusing on integrity, accountability, discipline, training, automation, passenger and trade services, integrated air and marine interdiction, and high impact investigations;
- Continuing to focus on facilitating the flow of legitimate commerce and travelers while at the same time identifying, disrupting, and dismantling entities that threaten the legitimate flow of commerce;
- Continuing Customs efforts to identify, disrupt, and dismantle narcotics and related money laundering organizations;
- Combating increasing terrorist threats;
- Maintaining a forward-thinking approach to the deployment of technology and automation; and
- Balancing the demands of external stakeholders with whom Customs needs to meet its performance goals.